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His Highness has set us all a splendid example in his simplicity of living by his devotion to the welfare of his subjects, however humble they may be, and by his loyalty to the cause for which we are fighting. His Highness is a Prince who cares not for personal glory or for personal comfort, but cares greatly for the poor among his subjects who are suffering at this time. His Highness devotes himself to the task of doing all he can to mitigate the hard lot of the poor, and of ensuring that His State shall do all that is possible to hasten the end of the world struggle, which has brought so much misery in its train. His Majesty has honoured a Ruler who like himself lives not for self but for his people.

The resolution was put and carried unanimously all members standing.

Announcement of the names of the Panel of Chairmen

Mr. President: The following Members will constitute as panel of Chairmen. Mrs. A. N. Menon and Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.

Speech by the Member for Rural Development

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* Mr. President, Sir, In addressing this House on the eve of the presentation of the second Budget since the assumption of office by me, I have a pleasant and onerous duty to perform, of placing before the Hon'ble Members a brief account of the administration of the Transferred Subjects for the current year with a forecast of the salient features designed for the year to come.

We have been passing through the most critical period in our history. With the thorny tentacles of a devastating war creeping into the vitals of our daily life and the battle of food already waged on our people still advancing with merciless and almost sickening onslaughts, the task of keeping the normal tempo of rural welfare is bound to be beset with difficulties of the most acute character. While looking back to the past with a sigh of relief, the future creates in us a sense of fear and hope, fear of still more difficult days to come and hope of tiding over them by united and sustained action. The reins of administration during the current year, as the House is aware, have been directed towards the solution of the most vital problem confronting the State, I mean, the food problem. To those who have been watching the trend of events in Cochin, it would be abundantly clear that Cochin owes a deep debt of gratitude to her Diwan, Mr. Dixon, for the transparent sincerity and extraordinary boldness evinced by him in tackling the food problem. A problem of such enormous magnitude can never be expected to be solved unless the co-operation of all branches of administration, as also of the public, is extended in an unreserved measure. It is only in the fitness of things that in this connection I extend to the people of Cochin my hearty congratulations for the patience with which they have been facing the food situation and the sympathy and co-operation they have shown to the schemes started by the Government in the direction of solving this problem. I could think of no better way of discharging the solemn trust placed in me than by tuning my departments to the solution of this all-important problem and augmenting the facilities for the production of more and more food stuffs in the State, thereby supplementing the efforts of the Diwan in this direction. The Minor Irrigation Scheme of which I had occasion to mention in my last budget speech was intended to serve as an important food production scheme. As you know, Rural Cochin had been suffering much in the past, especially in the dry months of the year, to get adequate irrigation facilities to protect her crops. When Burma was supplying us with enough rice, this urgent necessity was

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not being felt so keenly as it is now. With the fall of Burma into enemy hands and the consequent scarcity of paddy and rise in its price, it has become a dire necessity to supply the deficiency. Therefore, out of the allotment under "Special Contribution" for Rural Development Departments, a sum of Rs. 1,70,000 was earmarked for improving minor irrigation facilities in the State this year. More than one hundred silted up irrigation tanks and channels have been restored and made useful for irrigation purposes. Large areas of wet lands, though in small holdings, depending entirely upon these tanks after the monsoon period for cultivation of second and third crops and which used to fail during summer for want of water, will be benefited largely due to the increased storage thus made available. The improvements thus effected in some cases have brought additional areas under cultivation. Due to the early and unexpected outbreak of the monsoon, it has not been possible to complete all the works as anticipated. It is expected that works to the extent of Rs. 1,50,000 will be completed this year. The remaining works will be completed early in 1119. The minor irrigation programme is proposed to be continued next year also. In the budget that is placed before you, a further allotment of Rs. 1,85,000 has been made for this. It is my hope that an all-State-wide minor irrigation scheme could thus be completed in a few years by making appropriate annual allotments towards this item.

Along with the question of minor irrigation, another factor that contributes towards the production of more food materials is the supply of manure, which is equally important, if not more, to the agricultural population. In the current year's budget there is a special allotment of Rs. 4,690 for starting manure depots in Panchayat areas. So far sixty-one depots have been opened and attempts are being made to open depots in the remaining Panchayats also. Manure worth about Rs. 35,000 has been purchased and distributed to the agriculturists in the current year. Orders have also been placed for the supply of manure worth about Rs. 24,000 and this is expected to arrive very shortly. The House will realise the magnitude of this work when they hear that the amount spent in 1117 for this purpose was only Rs. 5,900. Export of manure from the State had to be prohibited. Every attempt is being made to collect and stock all available quantity of manure. In pursuance of this scheme a sum of Rs. 1,35,000 has been included in the next year's Budget for the purchase of manure and implements. A new drive in the direction of growing more vegetables is proposed to be given in the coming year. Arrangements have been made in the Central Farm to grow vegetables on a large scale. This will be extended to the several gardens under the Agricultural Department. Seeds and seedlings have been distributed to the ryots on credit in large quantities. In recent times there had been an increased demand for the supply of grafts of the various fruit trees from the Central Farm. Every attempt will be made to meet this increased demand.

The dairy section in the Central Farm is being reorganised. For the improvement of cattle-breeding in rural areas it is proposed to station at least one pedigree bull in every Panchayat. Over and above the bulls stationed in the departmental institutions at Mulanthuruthy, Trippunithura, Vyttila, and Vadakkancheri and the 15 pedigree bulls stationed at different centres in the State, for which grants are paid from the Agricultural Department a sum of Rs. 5,000 has been specially ear-marked in the next year's Budget for providing bulls in 20 more centres. It is proposed to complete the programme of supplying bulls to all Panchayat areas in the course of a few years. A scheme is also being drawn up to train stockmen-compounders in the Veterinary Hospital at Trichur, who would afterwards be posted in rural areas to impart necessary instructions and render such veterinary aid as is possible.

I have attempted so far to place before the House some of the important directions in which I have tried to alleviate the shortage of food in the State. I can assure the House that no pains will be spared in making the departments entrusted to my care as useful as possible to help the State in tiding over a most difficult crisis.

Next to food comes clothing. Lack of large scale industries and facilities for the cultivation of cotton has rendered our State dependent on outsiders for the supply of clothes. Although there are inevitable difficulties in the way of finding a proper and effective solution for the problem of clothing in the State, one is bound to command all resources of the State as far as available and make the best out of the situation. Indigenous hand-loom weaving industry has been in existence in the State for a long time, weavers being scattered in several parts of the State. In my view these indigenous weavers were lacking in organised effort. I was thinking of a scheme whereby these weavers could be organised through the medium of co-operative societies. An attempt had already been made in this direction by starting Co-operative Societies of Weavers at Kunnathupalayam, Kuthampilli and Eravathodi. Loans were granted for their working and a paid Secretary was appointed in each to safeguard the interests of both the Government and the Society. When, therefore, these two deficiencies, namely, want of capital

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